

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 11 and 12 are cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 is amended herein. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments would be found in, for example, page 5, line 6 through page 10, line 18; page 11 line 19 through page 12, line 7; and page 14, line 20 through page 15, line 4 of the specification of this present application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are currently pending in this application.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3, 5, 7, 11 AND 12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101 AS BEING DIRECTED TO NON-STATUTORY SUBJECT MATTER

In item 6 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts "claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 11 and 12 ... are considered to comprise non-statutory subject matter, for merely manipulating an abstract idea without producing any "useful, concrete, and tangible result"". See also, item 10 on page 5 of the Office Action. Therefore, claim 1 is amended to clarify this matter.

More specifically, claim 1 as amended recites, "**outputting a statement with the support fee and the grade of the user**". It is respectfully submitted that "outputting a statement with the support fee and the grade of the user ", as specifically recited by the Applicant in, for example, claim 1, indicates that Applicant's invention as specifically recited in, for example, claim 1 produces a "useful, concrete, and tangible result". Further understanding and appreciation of Applicant's claimed invention as specifically recited in, for example, claim 1, would be found in, for example, page 6, lines 13-19; page 11, line 19 through page 12, line 7; and page 14, line 20 through page 15, line 4.

Moreover, it was held in State Street that a claim was statutory if a claim recites "a practical application" that produces a "concrete, tangible and useful result". Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, adheres to the holding in State Street.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding how claims 3, 5 and 7 also overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3, 5, 7, 11 AND 12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER BOARDMAN ET AL (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,456,986)

Claim 1 as amended specifically recites, amongst other novel features, **“outputting a statement with the support fee and the grade of the user”**. (Emphasis added). Boardman fails to disclose, teach or suggest these features.

Instead, Boardman merely discloses a system for determining what to charge customers for certain transactions wherein Boardman discusses calculating a charge for a telephone call. See, for example, column 2, lines 20-22 of Boardman. Further, Boardman merely depicts the processing for rating an event, the processing of a Price Plan, the processing of an algorithm, and the evaluation of a Condition. See FIGS. 5-8, and column 2, lines 5-10 of Boardman.

However, it is respectfully submitted Boardman fails to disclose, teach or suggest **“outputting a statement with the support fee and the grade of the user”**, as specifically recited by Applicant in, for example, claim 1. Further understanding and appreciation for Applicant's claimed invention as recited in claim 1 would be found in, for example, page 6, lines 13-19; page 11, line 19 through page 12, line 7; and page 14, line 20 through page 15, line 4 of the specification of the present application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences in claims 3, 5 and 7 over Boardman.

IV. CONCLUSION

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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